September 11, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Michigan Supreme Court kicks off new session by directing consistent, meaningful access to foreign language interpreters; Justices Young and McCormack announce new rule

Press release

Detroit Legal News: Commission recommends removal of Wayne County iudge

"The Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission has recommended the removal of Wayne County Circuit Judge Wade McCree.... The state Supreme Court will have the final say on what happens to McCree, who is accused of having an affair with a witness in a case he was hearing and repeatedly lying under oath."

Full story

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

The Detroit News: Inmate who escaped Detroit court to face more charges today

"The Wayne County jail inmate whose escape Monday led to an intensive manhunt involving a multitude of law enforcement agencies and froze a city in fear for hours will be formally charged Wednesday afternoon. Abraham Pearson, 25, will be arraigned via video from a Wayne County cell at 1 p.m. before a 36th District Court magistrate."

Full story

Also see:

The Macomb Daily: Macomb County police: Moving prisoners is risky business *Full story*

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Escaped Wayne County inmate back in court to face new criminal charges

Full story

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Abraham Pearson to be arraigned after alleged stabbing, escape, carjacking & Detroit manhunt

Full story

The Detroit News: Power outage hits several major Detroit facilities

"Several of the city's major institutions lost power after 1 p.m. Wednesday, including City Hall, and Wayne State University.... Power was lost at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice and the courthouse was evacuated about 1:30 p.m., interrupting testimony during the preliminary exam for Robert Bashara, who is accused of hiring a hit-man to kill his wife Jane Bashara. At 1:50 p.m., court officials announced that courthouse would be closed for the remainder of the day."

Full story

Also see:

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Power outages in Detroit

<u> Full story</u>

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Power outage hits downtown Detroit

Full story

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Power outage hits downtown Detroit municipal buildings, People Mover, traffic lights & Wayne State

Bay City Times: Bay City man headed to district court after Michigan Supreme Court overturns his sexual assault conviction

"A Bay City man whose 2011 conviction in the sexual assault of a 4-year-old girl was recently overturned by the Michigan Supreme Court is set to undergo new proceedings in Bay County District Court. Bay County Chief Circuit Judge Kenneth W. Schmidt on Monday, Aug. 26, granted a defense request to have the case of David B. Burns, 25, remanded to District Court for a preliminary examination, the date of which is pending."

Full story

Bay City Times: Bay County boosts Probate Court's budget by \$225,000 for foster-care expenses

"Without discussion, Bay County Commissioners unanimously agreed Tuesday, Sept. 10, to increase the Bay County Probate Court's budget by \$225,000 so that it can pay for foster care and housing related to an increase in abuse and neglect cases."

Full story

Daily Telegram/Adrian: Former local judge dies in Texas

"One of Lenawee County's first district court judges, Yale 'Leland' Kerby, died recently at his home in Uvalde, Texas. His wife, Grace, notified Lenawee County Circuit Judge Margaret M.S. Noe of his death on July 31 at the age of 88."

Full story

Grand Haven Tribune: Specialty courts make good sense: Veterans courts, mental health courts, drug courts and sobriety courts

"... In Ottawa County, we're lucky to have an established and successful sobriety treatment program in Holland. A similar program may open here in Grand Haven, and we would certainly support such an initiative because it seems to make a real impact on real families."

Full story

Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Will county keep 11 judges?; Berrien County Board urges area lawmakers to fight state's move to cut one judge slot

"Berrien County commissioners voted Thursday [September 5] to ask state legislators from the area to work to block a proposal to reduce the number of judges in the county from 11 to 10. The resolution of support for the Trial Court got unanimous County Board approval."

Full story

Lansing State Journal: Aggressive ticket writing generates millions in East Lansing; City issued more than 38,000 parking tickets in 2012

"... The 54B District Court last year took in \$1.9 million in parking ticket revenue, \$300,000 more than the previous year. Court Administrator Denise McCrimmon said the increase is due to a collections program for unpaid parking tickets dating back to 2002. That program, she said, was mandated by the State Court Administrative Office."

Full story

Midland Daily News: Demolition of courthouse jail addition to begin in one week

"Be prepared for loud pounding and crashing from the area of the Midland County Courthouse.

Demolition of the old jail and 1958 addition to the Midland County Courthouse is about one week away....

Because the existing Tudor-Revival style courthouse, opened in 1926, is listed on both the State Register

of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places, care is being taken with the demolition of the addition."

Full story

The Oakland Press Blog: Troy District Judge Invalidates Driving While High Law

"This ruling is going to get some attention in high places. Troy District Judge Kirsten Nielsen Hartig has ruled that Michigan's motor vehicle code provision criminalizing the operation of a motor vehicle with the presence of a controlled substance [marijuana] violates the equal protection clause of the Michigan and United States Constitutions."

Full story

Three Rivers Commercial-News: Supreme Court Justice Viviano visits SJC; Attends county Bar Association meeting

"David Viviano, the newest member of the Michigan Supreme Court, visited St. Joseph County Monday, first having audience with the county's four judges (Paul Stutesman, Jeffrey Middleton, Rob Pattison and David Tomlinson) at the courthouse and then attending the St. Joseph County Bar Association's Fall meeting where he made an address and greeted the barristers. Accompanying Viviano was his father Antonio, who had also served in a judicial capacity as a circuit court judge in Macomb County before retiring in 2010."

Full story